

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, July 5 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crisis Negotiation Program. The program created the Crisis Negotiation Unit, which has worked to negotiate the release of hostages for the last 25 years.

We live in a very dangerous world, one that has for two decades seen a steady rise in hostage-taking incidents. We know that we will face new challenges from criminals and terrorists in the next century and that the work of this unit will be even more vital to the security of the American people both at home and abroad.

The FBI Special Agents who serve in the Crisis Negotiation Unit deserve the gratitude of our Nation for their bravery and for their devotion. They deserve recognition of the fact that they have saved the lives of countless hostages and law enforcement personnel in the most dire of circumstances.

The Crisis Negotiation Unit has also protected numerous potential innocent bystanders from harm in many high-profile hostage crises, like the Luft-hansa skyjacking at John F. Kennedy Airport in 1993 to many serious incidents that have received little or no publicity.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I commend and congratulate the Crisis Negotiation Unit and its Special Agents on their 25th anniversary. They deserve our special thanks for a job well done and our prayers for all the dangers they are sure to face in the coming years.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, we are about to again celebrate our independence day. I mentioned on the floor yesterday how grateful we should be to all the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years. Because had it not been for their sacrifice, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

Freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it. But it goes beyond freedom in the United States of America. Just in the past decade, we have seen the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the democratization of all of Eastern Europe, the breakup of the Soviet Union. And we should recognize that the sacrifice of our soldiers have meant freedom and democracy for hundreds of millions of other people all around the world.

So it is a weekend where we should practice great gratitude. And, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, I hope more and

more Americans do what I do every morning when I get up. First I thank God for my life, and then I thank veterans for my way of life.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT ENDANGERS RANCHING INDUSTRY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Interior has issued a policy that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the renewal or transfer of any livestock grazing permits.

Well, the Department now also requires that the Bureau of Land Management complete an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement prior to this grazing permit reissuance or transfer.

If any of these studies are challenged by some extremist special-interest groups or if the analyses are not complete before the permit or lease expires, the permittee is kicked off the allotment without recourse even if the range is in excellent condition.

Completing these analyses and implementing the resulting decisions will likely take many, many years. During those years, the permittee will be excluded from the allotment, essentially destroying their livelihood, and bankrupting another family business.

The problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that NEPA applies to "a major Federal action significantly impacting the quality of the human environment." The Department of Interior has not explained why a simple paper transaction requires years of study.

The Secretary of Interior is attempting to destroy the ranching industry and is assaulting generations of families who have nurtured and cared for our public lands. Such unreasonable regulation is the death of all good business.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces to all the Members that the Chair will recognize up to ten 1-minutes on each side, not five.

MAKING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Research and Development tax credit in our Nation expired. H.R. 835, a bipartisan bill supported by over 150 of

our colleagues, would make this Research and Development tax credit permanent.

Mr. Speaker, because the tax credit has expired, we need to act. What are we waiting for? We really should pass this bill because the bill is good public policy. Making the R&D tax credit permanent is critical to the continuing growth of America's economy, especially our new economy.

If this tax credit were made permanent, our GDP would increase by nearly \$28 billion over the next 20 years.

American businesses, Mr. Speaker, cannot base their planning on a year-to-year renewal of this credit anymore than the American family should base their financial planning on a year-to-year renewal of the home mortgage deduction.

So now that the tax credit has expired, Congress should extend it. What are we waiting for, Mr. Speaker? Let us take action on this and expand our economy in a new and better way.

SALUTE TO NEW MILITARY SERVICE STUDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July this weekend, I rise to talk about the students who will ensure that the United States remains a beacon of freedom throughout the world.

This year I had the pleasure of nominating 25 young men and women from the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the United States military services academies. A number of those students were appointed to the academies.

This week, those young men and women will start a journey; four years of study at premier institutions of higher learning, followed by active duty in the United States Armed Forces. Throughout their 4 years, they will not only study academics but prepare themselves militarily and physically for service to the Nation as military officers. They are living proof that patriotism is alive at the turn of the millennium, and they are tomorrow's leaders. Therefore, I would like to join their parents and friends in saluting these outstanding students.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DEBATES SHOULD INCLUDE ALL VIABLE CANDIDATES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last November polls in Minnesota said it